

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for closing an opening in a wall of a body lumen, comprising:

5       advancing a distal end of an elongate member through a patient's skin along a passage through tissue and into the body lumen;

          positioning a distal portion of an obturator distally beyond the distal end of the elongate member along the passage within  
10   the body lumen;

          expanding one or more expandable elements on the distal portion of the obturator transversely;

          withdrawing the obturator from the passage until the expandable elements contact the wall of the body lumen, thereby  
15   providing a tactile indication of a location of the wall of the body lumen between the elongate member and the plurality of expandable elements of the obturator;

          advancing a clip into the passage over the elongate member until tines of the clip penetrate the wall of the body lumen, the  
20   tines and the expandable elements on the obturator being angularly offset from one another such that the tines penetrate the wall at locations between expandable elements; and

withdrawing the elongate member from the body lumen and passage, leaving the clip to substantially close the opening in the wall of the body lumen.

5           2.    The method of claim 1, wherein when the elongate member is withdrawn, the tines automatically at least partially move towards a planar configuration to substantially close the opening.

10           3.    The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a carrier assembly on the elongate member, the carrier assembly carrying the clip.

            4.    The method of claim 1, wherein the tines comprise  
15 primary tines and secondary tines, and wherein advancing the clip comprises:

puncturing the wall of the body lumen with the primary tines until tips of the primary tines enter the body lumen; and

puncturing the wall of the body lumen with the secondary  
20 tines;

wherein the primary tines and the secondary tines puncture the walls without contacting the expandable elements of the obturator.